

Appln No. 10/760275
Amdt. Dated: December 21, 2006
Response to Office Action of October 19, 2006

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REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant thanks Examiner for the detailed Office Action dated October 19, 2006. In response to the issues raised, the Applicant offers the following submissions and amendments.

Amendments

The cross reference to related application table has been amended to merely update serial numbers to patent numbers.

The description has been amended to remove the preliminary amendment identified by the Examiner as adding matter.

Claim 4 has been amended to define that the transmission drives the auxiliary member from performing one maintenance function to another maintenance function. This is described at page 7, lines 17 to 22 and page 24, lines 3 to 9.

Accordingly, the amendments do not add any new matter.

35 U.S.C. §103 - Claims 2 to 4

Claim 4 stands rejected as obvious in light of US 6,142,602 to Tanaka in view of US 6,585,348 to Reed et al.

Claim 4 has been amended to clarify that the transmission drives the auxiliary member between different maintenance functions. Neither of the cited references shows this feature.

The cap described in Tanaka automatically opens when the printhead is installed and re-closes whenever the printhead is removed. It caps the ink injection port to guard against ink drying. Therefore, it essentially performs a single maintenance function; that of capping. The mechanism shown in Fig. 8 of Tanaka does not drive the cap from one maintenance function to the next. It caps or uncaps the printhead.

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Neither of the citations teaches a transmission assembly that can engage and drive the auxiliary member from one of its functions to another. As the combined disclosures of the citations do not anticipate all the elements of claim 4, the cited references fail to support a §103 rejection. Accordingly, dependent claims 2 and 3 are likewise not obvious to the ordinary worker in this field.

It is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejection has been successfully traversed and the application is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, favorable reconsideration is courteously solicited.

Very respectfully,

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